



Australian Bureau of Statistics

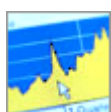
1308.7 - Inform NT, Mar 2011

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Summary

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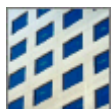
Latest Statistics

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In this issue

IN THIS ISSUE

Inform NT (cat. no 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory (NT) Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, activities and products relating to the NT. Inform NT is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

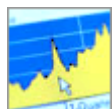
FORTHCOMING ISSUES

This is the final issue of Inform NT. It will be replaced by the publication State and Territory Statistical Indicators (cat no. 1367.0), which will be released in July 2011, and will include a newsletter about NT statistics from the September issue onwards.

INQUIRIES

For further information about this publication and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Latest Statistics



LATEST STATISTICS

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NT Summary Statistics
The NT Goes Walkabout
NT Choosing Not To Marry
NT Has Highest Imprisonment Rate
NT Boasts Lowest Unemployment Rate In Australia
NT Has Newest Cars
NT Continuing To Grow
NT Keen on Watching Sport
Number of Darwin Households Expected to Increase Rapidly
Crime Rates Decrease In NT
Selected Publication Release Dates

NT SUMMARY STATISTICS

| Cat. no. | Selected data | Unit | NT | Aust. |
|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3101.0 | Estimated resident population (preliminary) 30 Jun 2010 | '000 | 229.7 | 22 342.4 |
| 6202.0 | Total persons employed (trend) Feb 2011 | '000 | 123.4 | 11 443.7 |
| 6202.0 | Total persons unemployed (trend) Feb 2011 | '000 | 2.8 | 604.1 |
| 6202.0 | Unemployment rate (trend) Feb 2011 | % | 2.3 | 5.0 |
| 6202.0 | Workforce Participation rate (trend) Feb 2011 | % | 73.0 | 65.8 |
| 6202.0 | Civilian Population aged 15 years and over(a), | '000 | 173.2 | 18 292.9 |
| 8731.0 | Total dwelling units approved %, change from previous month (trend) Jan 2011 | % | -13.6 | -0.5 |
| 8731.0 | Total dwelling units approved, % change from previous month (trend), Dec 2010 | % | -12.0 | 0.5 |
| 6401.0 | Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change from Dec Qtr 2009 to Dec Qtr 2010 | % | 2.4(b) | 2.7(c) |
| 6401.0 | Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change from Sep Qtr 2010 to Dec Qtr 2010 | % | -0.1(b) | 0.4(c) |

(a) See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), Explanatory Notes para 10.

(b) Darwin.

(c) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

For further statistics about the Northern Territory (NT) see Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (cat. no. 1362.7).

THE NT GOES WALKABOUT

Statistics published in the latest edition of Participation in Sport & Physical Recreation, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4177.0) show that more Territorians who participate in sport and recreation choose to do so by walking (23%) than by any other means. Cycling/BMXing and aerobics/fitness/gym were jointly the second most popular way of participating at 12%.

The publication has also shown that in the NT overall participation has risen from approximately 58% in 2005-06 to 72% in 2009-10. The NT now has the second highest participation in sport and physical recreation of all the states and territories, behind only the ACT (77%).

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NT CHOOSING NOT TO MARRY

In 2009, the NT had the lowest marriage rate of all the states and territories, with four weddings registered in the NT for every 1 000 people. Queensland had the highest marriage rate of all the states and territories, with six marriages for every 1 000 people. The NT also had the lowest proportion of marriages performed by ministers of religion (26%). Of all the couples who were married in the NT, 85% had lived together before marriage. Further, the NT also had the lowest rate of divorce in 2009 (two divorces registered in the NT per 1 000 estimated resident population).

For more information about marriages see Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2009 (cat no. 3310.0).

NT HAS HIGHEST IMPRISONMENT RATE

The NT has continued to have the highest imprisonment rates of all the states and territories. As of 30 June 2010, 663 in every 100 000 adults were incarcerated, a total of 1 097 people in the NT. Of these people who were incarcerated, 96% were male and 81% were Indigenous. In 2010, the majority (67%) of people in gaol in the NT had been previously incarcerated. The ABS also publishes data on the most serious offence/charge for each person incarcerated in Australia.

For more information, see Prisoners in Australia, 2010 (cat no. 4517.0)

NT BOASTS LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN AUSTRALIA

The NT had the lowest unemployment rate of all the states and territories in January 2011, with an unemployment rate of 2.3% compared to a national rate of 5.1%. The NT also had the second highest participation rate of all the states and territories. More than seven in ten (72%) people in the NT aged 15 years or over were in the workforce or looking for work, second to the ACT (74%). A higher proportion of men than women were either working or looking for work in the NT, with 77% of men aged 15 years and older in the labour force, compared to 68% of women.

For more information about employment in the NT, see Labour Force, Australia (cat no. 6202.0)

NT HAS NEWEST CARS

Territorians have the newest registered vehicles, according to the Motor Vehicle Census (cat no. 9309.0) at 31 March 2010. The average age of a vehicle registered in the NT was just nine years old, compared to ten years old across Australia. The number of vehicles

registered in the NT has grown by 23% in the five years since 31 March 2005, the fastest increase of all the states and territories. Of the vehicles registered in the NT, 63% were passenger vehicles, 26% were light commercial vehicles, and 4% were motor cycles.

NT CONTINUING TO GROW

The estimated resident population of the NT grew approximately 2% in the 12 months from June 2009 to June 2010, reaching an estimated population of 229 700. This is similar to the national population growth rate. The majority (87%) of this population growth was caused by natural increase (i.e. population change from estimated numbers of births and deaths). The NT also had the youngest population in Australia, with a median age of just 31 years compared to an Australian median age of 37 years. The NT also had the highest sex ratio in Australia with 108 males for every 100 females, compared to a national ratio of 99 males for every 100 females.

For more information about the NT population, see Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2010 (cat no. 3101.0)

NT KEEN ON WATCHING SPORT

The NT has the highest rate of spectators at sporting events, with 59% of people attending a sporting event. NSW had the lowest attendance, with only 38% of people attending a sporting event. The most popular sports to attend in the NT were motor sports (29%) and Australian Rules football (24%)

For more information about watching sport, see Spectator Attendance at Sporting Events, 2009-10 (cat no 4174.0)

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NUMBER OF DARWIN HOUSEHOLDS EXPECTED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY

The number of households in Darwin is projected to increase from 40 100 households in 2006 to 65 500 households by 2031. This is an average annual growth rate of 2%. It is similar to the projected growth rate of other capital cities Perth and Brisbane, which are also expected to grow at 2%.

For more information about the future of Australian households see Australian Social Trends, Dec 2010 (cat no. 4102.0).

CRIME RATES DECREASE IN NT

According to ABS data (Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2009-10, cat no. 4530.0), the rate of some crimes has been decreasing in the NT. The rate of malicious property damage decreased from 20% of households in 2008-9 to 13% in 2009-10 in urban areas. Of households which were victims of malicious property damage, 72% experienced one incident, 16% experienced two incidents and 13% experienced three or more incidents. However, the NT also had the lowest percentage of people reporting no concerns about social disorder at 28%.

SELECTED PUBLICATION RELEASE DATES

Below is a list of selected publication releases containing NT data for the next three months. Publications with multiple issues released during the period are listed only once. Please note some release dates may change after the publication of this newsletter. For all publication release dates please refer to the ABS Release Calendar.

| Release date | Publication | Cat. no. |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Social | | |
| 23 Mar | Australian Social Trends, Mar 2011 | 4102.0 |
| 2 Jun | Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2010 | 4510.0 |
| 15 Jun | Corrective Services, Australia, March 2011 | 4512.0 |
| 17 Jun | Private Hospitals, Australia, 2009-10 | 4390.0 |
| Demography | | |
| 29 Mar | Australian Demographic Statistics, Sep 2010 | 3101.0 |
| 31 Mar | Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10 | 3218.0 |
| 5 Apr | Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Feb 2011 | 3401.0 |
| 3 May | Causes of Death, Australia, 2009 | 3303.0 |
| 17 May | Demography News, May 2011 | 3106.0 |
| 24 May | Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 | 6250.0 |
| 16 Jun | Migration, Australia, 2009-10 | 3412.0 |
| Economy | | |
| 30 Mar | Job Vacancies, Australia, Feb 2011 | 6354.0 |
| 30 Mar | Tourist Accommodation, Australia, Dec 2010 | 8635.0 |
| 31 Mar | Retail Trade, Australia, Feb 2011 | 8501.0 |
| 31 Mar | Building Approvals, Australia, Feb 2011 | 8731.0 |
| 1 Apr | Internet Activity, Australia, Dec 2010 | 8153.0 |
| 1 Apr | Australian Labour Market Statistics, Apr 2011 | 6105.0 |
| 5 Apr | International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Feb 2011 | 5368.0 |
| 6 Apr | Housing Finance, Australia, Feb 2011 | 5609.0 |
| 6 Apr | Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory, Dec 2010 | 8635.7.55.001 |
| 7 Apr | Labour Force, Australia, Mar 2011 | 7218.0.55.001 |
| 11 Apr | Livestock and Meat, Australia, Feb 2011 | 5671.0 |
| 12 Apr | Lending Finance, Australia, Feb 2011 | 5506.0 |
| 12 Apr | Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2009-10 | 5512.0 |
| 14 Apr | Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2009-10 | 9314.0 |
| 19 Apr | Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Mar 2011 | 8752.0 |
| 19 Apr | Building Activity, Australia, Dec 2010 | 5439.0 |
| 27 Apr | International Merchandise Imports, Australia, Mar 2011 | 6401.0 |
| 2 May | Consumer Price Index, Australia, Mar 2011 | 6416.0 |
| 4 May | House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2011 | 6403.0.55.001 |
| 16 May | Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2011 | 5609.0 |
| 16 May | Housing Finance, Australia, Mar 2011 | 6463.0 |
| 16 May | Housing Finance, Australia, Mar 2011 | 6467.0 |
| 19 May | Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household | 6302.0 |

| | | |
|--------|--|--------|
| 26 May | Types, Mar 2011 | 6287.0 |
| | Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Mar 2011 | |
| 30 May | Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Feb 2011 | 5676.0 |
| 8 Jun | Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2010 | 8412.0 |
| | Business Indicators, Australia, Mar 2011 | |
| | Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Mar 2011 | |

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2011 Census



2011 CENSUS

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 NT Government and Census Coordination Teams Working Together
 Coming Soon - Launch of Indigenous Recruitment
 Census | Beyond the Count - A Big Success

CENSUS BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

The Northern Australia Census Management Unit continues to network with key community players across the Northern Territory (NT), APY Lands of South Australia, Far North Queensland and the Kimberley region of WA.

This includes shires, mining organisations, health organisations and other key government and private sector organisations.

Census staff, including District Managers, Local Engagement Managers and Indigenous Engagement Managers, are now focusing their efforts on the Area Supervisor recruitment. They are spreading the message about the importance of Census through local media outlets, local forums and established networks.

The NT Government is very supportive of Census and has welcomed key recruiting material through its extensive networks.

The Northern Australia Unit is built around a close community model that sees local District Managers engaged on the ground, particularly in remote Indigenous communities.

Many staff, particularly from remote areas, are using their knowledge of local contacts and approaches to great success.

With promising reception from stakeholders and media, and an enthusiastic and driven team, the Northern Australia Census Unit are pursuing quality staff and resources for a successful count.

Further information regarding Census can be found on the ABS Website.

NT GOVERNMENT AND CENSUS COORDINATION TEAMS WORKING TOGETHER

The NT Government (NTG) and the ABS are working in partnership to support the 2011 Census. The NT Treasury and the ABS have collectively worked on recruitment presentations to raise awareness of upcoming employment opportunities for the 2011 census amongst NTG agencies.

Area Supervisor positions have been advertised nationally, with Area Supervisors in Indigenous Communities positions being advertised in March. The ABS is keen to employ local people in towns such as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy where their knowledge of the area is vital to obtaining the most accurate Census count for 2011.

In April the ABS will begin recruiting approximately 300 collectors across the NT who will be pivotal to the success of the 2011 Census. Other positions of employment will be advertised closer to Census night, for example, working in remote Indigenous communities as members of a Remote Area Mobile Team.

The ABS has been provided accommodation and office space in remote areas by FaHCSIA and NTG to enable Census staff to work within towns and communities. The ABS Census Management Unit appreciates the support given by Commonwealth and Territory agencies.

Further information regarding Census recruitment can be found on the ABS Website.

COMING SOON - LAUNCH OF INDIGENOUS RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

The Northern Australia Census Management Unit will be entering an exciting phase next month when we launch our Indigenous Recruitment Strategy across the region.

A main launch will be held at the community of Galiwin'ku, the largest community in east Arnhem Land in mid March. We will be inviting Darwin based media and people from the local community to hear about our commitment to the bush. Local events and community meetings organised by District Managers will complement the Galiwin'ku launch, spreading the word about Census in their local region.

Area Supervisors for Indigenous Communities, Community Communicators, Collector Interviewers and many other positions will be promoted at the launch.

CENSUS| BEYOND THE COUNT - A BIG SUCCESS

The Census | beyond the count conference was very successful, attracting more than 300 attendees from around Australia. The conference, which was held at the Hilton on the Park Hotel in Melbourne from 2 - 4 March, featured speakers from local, state and Commonwealth government, academia, non-government organisations and the private sector. They demonstrated the difference that Census data makes in areas as diverse as health, transport, Indigenous policy, urban planning and the environment.

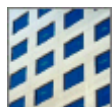
A highlight of the conference was the range of speakers from the ABS, explaining the new ABS geography standard, socio-economic indexes, changes in ABS population projections and how to make full use of the wealth of ABS Census data.

Representation from the NT in the conference program came from Dr Dean Carson, Head of Population and Tourism Studies at Charles Darwin University, presenting on 'The seven D's of Demography in the NT - Census Insights to Government Strategy'. Participants from the

NT found the conference useful and informative. 'Census | beyond the count was a great conference. It was useful to see how different organisations used Census data for planning, decision making and research purposes' said Libby Doney, a participant from the NT Chief Minister's Department. From her experience at the conference Ms Doney also expressed confidence about improvements to the quality of Northern Territory data from the upcoming 2011 Census.

Selected presentations from the conference will be available on the ABS Website.

Developments in ABS Statistics



DEVELOPMENTS IN ABS STATISTICS

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CPI Hits Darwin
Australian Health Survey
New Geography Standard for ABS Statistics
ABS Leads the Way in Quality Statistics
Statistical Training in 2011

CPI HITS DARWIN

The Australian wide tour of the outcomes from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) review was kicked off at a well attended session in the NT ABS office in Darwin, giving people a chance to have their say on the outcomes announced in the December 6 publication *Information Paper: Outcome of the 16th series Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI) review* (cat. no. 6469.0).

A similar session was held last year to initiate the consultation phase of the review. User involvement was strong and the contributions shaped the outcomes of the review. This session was aimed at finalising the review process, both informing users of the changes to be implemented in the CPI and giving them an opportunity to ask questions they may have about the changes.

Discussion in the session was lively. Of particular concern was the apparently low weight assigned to housing, not surprising for a city which is often cited as having the most expensive house rental prices in Australia. Issues raised by participants included the treatment of owner occupied housing and the effect that our modern consumption habits were having on the index. The ABS would like to extend their warm thanks to those who attended the public forums.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY

The ABS is conducting Australia's most comprehensive health survey, commencing in March 2011, to build a picture of Australia's health. The Australian Health Survey (AHS) will be run in two waves, the first running from March 2011 to February 2012 and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wave from March 2012 to February 2013. The survey will involve approximately 34,000 households across the country and nearly 50,000 people.

The AHS will be the most comprehensive health survey ever undertaken by the ABS and will be an important benchmark to help determine future health strategies. The survey will collect vital information about the current health, lifestyles and the prevalence of certain disease risk markers in the Australian population as a whole and will provide much-needed, comprehensive data on Australians to better inform Commonwealth and State Government policies and programs to improve health behaviours.

The new AHS builds on previous national health and nutrition surveys and will include both a household survey component, conducted by professional ABS interviewers, and a new voluntary biomedical component. Information will be collected on a range of indicators including general health and well-being; long-term conditions and disability; consultations with doctors and other health professionals; and use of medications. The survey will also collect information on health-related aspects of lifestyle such as smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity and diet. The ABS will also seek the consent of selected persons to allow the taking of physical measurements (height, weight, girth and blood pressure) using stadiometers, scales, tape measures and electronic blood pressure monitors. A subsample of respondents will also be asked to wear a pedometer for 8 days following their interview to provide a measure of the amount of walking undertaken.

For further information on the AHS visit the ABS Website.

NEW GEOGRAPHY STANDARD FOR ABS STATISTICS

Statistical Geography is an important component for the collection and dissemination of Census data as well as for the majority of other ABS statistical collections. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has been assiduously working to replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) with effect from July 2011.

The ASGC is used for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. The ASGC has been the foundation of the statistical geography used by the ABS, and many other organisations, since 1984. Over the years it has been criticised on many grounds including: lack of stability over time, inconsistent population sizes of the defined areas and that some of the areas were not meaningful.

The ASGS has therefore been developed to address these shortcomings. It will be based on mesh blocks and will define more stable, consistent and meaningful areas than the ASGC. The current ASGC regions such as the Census Collection Districts (CCDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will disappear to be replaced by the new Statistical Areas Levels 1 to 4 (SA1 - SA4).

The ASGS will be the new basis for the publication of the complete range of ABS spatial statistics. It will become the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of ABS statistics.

Further information regarding ASGS can be found on the ABS Website.

ABS LEADS THE WAY IN QUALITY STATISTICS

The ABS is committed to providing statistical leadership for standards used in statistical processes. As part of this undertaking the ABS has released an information paper which describes the concept of quality gates and their six components, followed by a discussion

and examples to assist users to implement quality gates in their own statistical processes.

Quality gates are a statistical risk mitigation strategy designed to improve the early detection of errors or flaws in any part of the statistical process cycle, be it collecting, processing, analysing or disseminating statistics. They act as a checkpoint at which an assessment of the quality of the process is made either qualitatively or quantitatively, to determine whether to proceed to the next stage of the process. This is done using the six components of a quality gate (Placement, Quality Measures, Roles, Tolerance, Actions and Evaluation), which act as acceptance criteria.

Quality gates are a tool which improve a user's ability to manage statistical risk. They do this by providing explicit evidence relating to the statistical process at strategic places in the cycle to determine fitness for purpose of the process (and data) at that point in time and improving knowledge management and information sharing of data relating to specific stages of a statistical process.

For more information see "Quality Management of Statistical Processes Using Quality Gates (cat. no. 1540)" information paper.

STATISTICAL TRAINING IN 2011

The Northern Territory (NT) Regional Office conducts a wide variety of statistical training courses throughout the year. The 2011 training course calendar has been finalised and is available on the ABS website. Statistical training courses offered in the NT for 2011 include 'Running Your Own Survey' and 'Introduction to Labour Statistics'.

The NT Regional Office offers training courses as a way for professionals to increase their statistical capability in order to allow them to make improved policy decisions when analysing data or to simply provide professionals with the tools that they need to improve their work performance. Furthermore, anyone who is interested in improving their statistical knowledge is encouraged to attend the training sessions, as improved statistical knowledge can help individuals improve their financial decision making, or give small businesses the edge over their competition.

A full list of statistical training courses, when they will be held and detailed information about each course can be found on the ABS Website.

Contacts



CONTACTS

ABS NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE (NIRS)

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

ABS TRAINING COURSES

The ABS offers a variety of training courses for people who wish to develop their statistical skills. ABS training courses aim to equip participants with a range of statistical tools and techniques with which to analyse data, understand principles and methodologies of statistical collections, and provide practical skills in statistical analysis to help make quality informed decisions.

Details of all training courses can be found on the ABS Training webpage on the ABS website. If you have any queries or wish to register your interest in attending any of the courses on offer, please call 08 8943 2100 or email nt.statistics@abs.gov.au.

FEEDBACK

Inform NT is produced by the ABS NT Office and is designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT.

Feedback on Inform NT can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2105 or email nt.statistics@abs.gov.au.

This is the final issue of Inform NT. It will be replaced by the new publication State and Territory Statistical Indicators (cat no. 1367.0), which will be released in July 2011, and will include a newsletter about NT statistics from the September issue onwards..

About this Release

Inform NT is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.

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